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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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November 4, 1997

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William F. Caton  
Acting Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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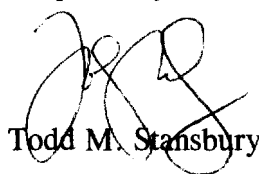
Re: A.H. Belo Corporation  
Digital Television Progress Report

Dear Mr. Caton:

On behalf of A.H. Belo Corporation, pursuant to the Fifth Report and Order adopting rules for digital television service, MM Docket No. 87-268 (April 21, 1997), enclosed for filing is a report to advise the Commission of the progress being made to prepare KHOU-TV, Houston, Texas, and WFAA-TV, Dallas, Texas, to commence digital broadcasts by November 1, 1998.

Please contact this office if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



Todd M. Stansbury

cc: Marian Spitzberg, Esq.

NOV 4 - 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

October 31, 1997

William F. Caton  
Acting Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20554

Re: WFAA-TV, Dallas, TX  
KHOU-TV, Houston, TX  
A. H. Belo Corporation  
Digital Television  
Semi-Annual Progress Report

Dear Mr. Caton:

A. H. Belo Corporation ("Belo") is pleased to provide the Commission with this report on the status of efforts to commence digital television service.

As the Commission is aware, Belo has committed to begin digital television broadcasts on WFAA-TV, Dallas, Texas, and KHOU-TV, Houston, Texas by November 1, 1998. In the Fifth Report and Order adopting rules for digital television service, MM Docket No. 87-268, at ¶ 76 (April 21, 1997), the Commission requested that stations that made eighteen month commitments file semi-annual reports to advise the Commission of construction progress. Belo currently is optimistic that digital service can begin on WFAA-TV and KHOU-TV as scheduled.

For both stations, Belo has already placed orders for the major components of the digital transmission plant. The antenna for KHOU-TV is scheduled for shipment in mid-November, and the transmitter and transmission line should be delivered in the first quarter of 1998. WFAA-TV also expects delivery of its major system components in early 1998.

The stations will be able to operate from their existing towers, but some modifications to the structure will be necessary. WFAA-TV will need to increase its overall height, but has already received a determination of no hazard from the Federal Aviation Administration. KHOU-TV will remove and reconstruct the top two sections of its tower so that the new digital antennas may be stacked without increasing the overall height of the structure.

William F. Caton  
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Belo has made substantial progress to prepare for local origination of digital service. The KHOU-TV studio is now "digital ready," and WFAA-TV has completed approximately 90% of the design and construction for its studio.

Belo has also commenced the regulatory process. KHOU-TV filed for a construction permit for its digital facility on October 16, 1997, and the application for WFAA-TV will be filed shortly.

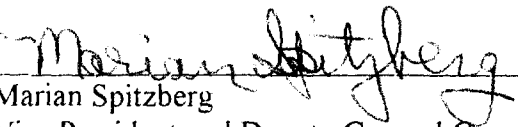
To complete digital construction, certain system components will be required that are not yet available – in particular, the Grand Alliance encoder, which is necessary to compress the digital signal fed to the transmitter. Belo has been working with manufacturers to promote the prompt production of the necessary equipment.

Accordingly, provided all equipment becomes available as needed, Belo believes that it will be able to make digital television service a reality in 1998.

Respectfully submitted,

A. H. BELO CORPORATION

By:

  
Marian Spitzberg  
Vice President and Deputy General Counsel